National Literacy Mission

†1212. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the aims of the National Literacy Mission and when was it introduced;

(b) the amount spent during the last five years, year-wise to achieve the targets;

(c) the details of the activities of the National Literacy Mission Authority and the amount spent on it during the last two years;

(d) the details of the achievements made under the Mission so far and the mechanism in place for its assessment at district level and guiding provisions for the purpose;

(e) the number of illiterate people in the country at present; and

(f) the details of the steps taken by Government for taking optimum co-operation of young men and women in the Mission task?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHARF FATMI): (a) The National Literacy Mission (NLM) was launched on 5th May, 1988 to impart functional literacy to non-literates in 15-35 age-group in the country. The aim of the Mission is to achieve a sustainable threshold literacy level of 75% by 2007.

(b) The amount spent during the last five years is as under:-

2000-01	Rs. 108.16 crore
2001-02	Rs. 173.67 crore
2002-03	Rs. 216.29 crore
2003-04	Rs. 232.50 crore
2004-05	Rs. 236.47 crore

(c) The National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA) is managed by a Council, an Executive Committee (EC) and a Project Approval Committee (PAC). While the Council is headed by the Minister of Human Resource Development, the EC and the PAC are chaired by the Secretary, Department

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of elementary Education & Literacy. The NLMA oversees the implementation of various literacy programmes through the State Literacy Mission Authorities and Zilla Saksharata Samities, which are registered societies. The programmes include Total Literacy Campaigns (TLC), Post Literacy Programme (PLP) and Continuing Education Programme (CEP). At present, 135 districts are implementing TLCs, 167 PLPs and 295 CEPs. Further, 157 Jan Shikshan Sansthans for providing vocational training to the neo-literates and 25 State Resource Centres for providing academic and technical resource support to literacy programmes have also been set-up.

During the last two years, an amount of Rs. 14.03 lakhs and Rs. 6.35 lakhs respectively was spent in respect of the NLMA.

(d) The details of the achievements made by NLM so far as under:—

* The literacy rate in 2001 has increased to 64.84% as against 52.21% in 1991. The 12.63 percentage points increase in the literacy rate during the period is the highest increase in any decade. For the first time in any decade, the absolute number of illiterates has also come down.

* 119.90 million persons are reported to have been made literate so far.

* The gap in male-female literacy rate has decreased from 24.84% in 1991 to 21.60% in 2001.

* Female literacy increased by 14.38% whereas male literacy increased by 11.13% during the last decade.

* All the States and union territories without exception have shown increase in literacy rates during 1991-2001.

All the programmes of NLM are monitoried regularly. The programmes are also externally evaluated by various research institutes of social sciences and NGOs. Detailed guidelines have already been laid down for evaluation of these programmes.

(e) As per Census 2001, the number of illiterate persons was 304 million in 7+ age-group.

(f) The literacy programmes are implemented through Volunteer Teachers (VTs) who are mostly young men and women from schools and colleges, including NSS youth.